

### **REMARKS**

The Examiner's Action mailed on December 27, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully considered. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 editorially. No new matter was added. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 1-6 are now pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nagai* (US 5,995,373). The rejection of claims 1-6 is respectively traversed. It is well settled that a reference may anticipate a claim within the purview of 35 U.S.C. section 102 only if all the features and all the relationships recited in the claim are taught by the reference structure either by clear disclosure or under the principle of inherency.

Nagai apparently discloses an electronic apparatus having a first and a second casing part, when the casing parts are rotated relative to each other about a hinge structure, a first and a second sleeve constitute a connector and can also rotate relative to each other. A flexible conductive member is received in the sleeves so as to set up electrical connection between circuit portions built in the casing parts. The connector is removable from the circuit portions of the casing parts. In the event of assembly, the electrical connection is set up only if the connector is connected to the circuit portions.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 recites a mobile phone with base-detachable hinge structure, including: a base unit, a display unit, a hinge

structure, and a protection casing. The display unit includes a first hinge hole and a first hinge spindle. The hinge structure has **a second hinge spindle to rotatably fit into the first hinge hole** so as to join up the hinge structure with the display unit. The hinge structure is attached to and detached from the base unit by means of a fixing device. The protection casing is formed by joining up the top protection casing with the root protection casing, thereby **forming a second hinge hole** into which **the first hinge spindle rotatably** fits so as to join up the protection casing with the display unit.

In contrast, *Nagai* discloses an electronic apparatus including casing parts 1a and 1b, and a hinge portion 14. The casing parts 1a and 1b are hinged and rotatably connected to each other by the screws 13. (Col. 3, lines 39-41) Upper bearings 11 and lower bearings 12 protruding from the casing parts 1a and 1b respectively are connected by the screws 13. (Col. 3, lines 30-39; and Col. 4, lines) The hinge connector 14 is supported by the casing part 1b and made up of a pair of sleeves 15 and 16 having coupling portions 17 and 18 protruding therefrom. The coupling portions 17 and 18 receiving connectors 20 and 21 of the flexible circuit board 19 are respectively received in the slits 32 and 35 of the casing parts 1a and 1b. (Col. 3, lines 42-55; and Col. 4, lines 40-42) That is, after assembly, the connectors 20 and 21 are fixedly received into the slits 32 and 35 without relative rotation. This contrasts with the claimed invention in which "a second hinge spindle of the hinge structure rotatably fits into the first hinge hole of the display unit" and "the first hinge spindle of the display unit rotatably fits into a second hinge hole formed by the protection casing" *Nagai* fails to disclose (or even suggest) that "a second hinge hole is formed by the protection casing into which the first hinge spindle of the display unit rotatably fits". Instead, the slit 35 relied on by the Examiner as being the second

hinge hole is formed in the casing parts 1b and fixedly receives the connector 21 without relative rotation.

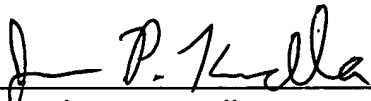
Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that, contrary to the Examiner's statement, there is no disclosure (or even a suggestion) by this reference that the hinge structure is attached to and detached from the base unit by means of a fixing device. Rather, *Nagai's* hinge connector 14 along with the bearing 12 is not detachable but formed integrally with the parts 1b. (Col. 4, lines 35-37) As is clear from FIG. 3 and Col. 3, line 43 of *Nagai*, the hinge connector 14 is supported by and connected to the bearings 12 of the casing part 1b even if the screw (being equated as the fixing device by the Examiner) is removed. As such, the claimed structure is not disclosed (nor is it suggested) by *Nagai*. Therefore, amended claim 1 is not anticipated (or rendered obvious) by the cited reference. Moreover, since claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, claims 2-6 also are not anticipated (or rendered obvious) by *Nagai*. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The amendment was made to expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of the amended claims and reserves the right to re-introduce them and claims of an equivalent scope in a continuation application.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel at the number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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